The Highlander

Thursday Oct 30 2025 | Issue 713

INSIDE: WINTER PREPAREDNESS PAGES 12-13 **FREE**

Chloe Thomas-Williamson sticks close to Tiffany Howe, who led the witches dance workshop at the Haunting in Minden Hills event at the Cultural Centre Oct 25. See more on page 19. *Photo by Steven Sherwood.*

Hodgson 'humbled' by chamber win

By Mike Baker

Haliburton's Andrew Hodgson has earned many accolades throughout his career as a political staffer and real estate agent, but none carried as much meaning as when he was named 2025 Highlander of the Year last week.

Hodgson beat out seven others to claim the award at the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce annual business excellence awards, held at the Haliburton Legion Oct. 26.

"There have been wonderful leaders of this community recognized with this award going back years – I'm honoured to be a part of that list now," Hodgson told *The Highlander.* "I thought the whole night was exciting and wonderful, it was great seeing so many young people doing business here."

Born and raised in Haliburton, Hodgson said his very first volunteer post was as president of the student council at Hal High. He moved away after high school, but upon returning in the mid-2000s he started to get involved with many community organizations.

Hodgson has been a Haliburton Rotarian for 19 years, serving as president in 2012-13 when the club constructed the bandshell in Head Lake Park; sat on the board for the Haliburton County Development Corporation for 19 years, currently serving as chair; was the County representative on the Sir Sandford Fleming college board for several years; and was a part of the flood relief committee in Minden in 2016.

Most recently, Hodgson was named to one of two civilian positions on the new Haliburton County Police Detachment Board.

"I grew up in Haliburton and really love this community. My family has been in this area since 1865, they've been involved in so many volunteer efforts and been elected to many positions in the County," Hodgson said. "I'm so humbled to have gotten this award."

Hodgson beat out Barb Smith-Morrison, David and Betty Mills, Lee Train, Jessica Slade, Mathew Renda and Shay-Lynn Hutchings for the gong.

The chamber's executive director, Amanda Conn, congratulated Nicole Mee of Forest Lane Counselling for winning

Continued **'Celebrating'** on page 2

Highlander news

Left: Brandi Hewson, owner of Wai Products, can't hide her excitement after winning the individual leadership business achievement award at the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce's annual business awards Oct. 26. Right: All the winners from the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce's 2025 business awards pose with their awards. *Photos by Mike Baker.*

Celebrating Haliburton County businesses

Continued from page 1

businesswoman of the year – beating out Brandi Hewson, Britt Thomas, Chelsea Adamson, Deborah Banks, Kelsey Sharpless, Sandra Prozak, Hutchings and Tamara Skoretz.

"We are extremely proud of the strong women in business that we have… [Nicole] exhibits outstanding performance, a definite career progression and demonstrated incredible results, while also active in the community and committed to making a positive impact," Conn said.

Mee said it was an honour to be recognized.

"When I first became a therapist, I had lofty dreams and big ideas. But mainly, all I wanted to do was help people thrive in the world. I wanted to build something that made a real difference, a place where people could find hope, healing and courage to move forward.

"Seeing that vision come to fruition is the greatest reward. This award is a reminder that meaningful work matters and that when we lead with purpose and compassion, we can create lasting change," Mee said.

Hewson, founder of WAI Products and Kohara and Co., took home the individual leadership business achievement award after building her companies from the ground up over the past 15 years.

"From where we started to where we are today, it's things like this that force us to take a step back and appreciate who we are, what we are, and the people that surround us," Hewson said. "I'm not standing up here as an individual – this is a team award. It's because of them I'm able to reach for everything that I have and stretched WAI Products into four companies, not just one."

Award winners

Warden's Award: Brooksong Retreat & Cancer Support Centre
Customer Service – Business: Northern HVAC
Customer Service – Employee: John Watson
Young Professional: Chelsea Adamson
Not for Profit: Youth Unlimited
New Business: Haliburton Village Pharmacy
Established Business: Wind in the Willows Spa
Tourism and Hospitality: Haliburton Post House
Businesswoman: Nicole Mee
Professional Services: Haliburton Chiropractic
Industry and Skilled Trades: Hodgkinson Builds
Retail: Coneybeare's Butcher Shop
Individual leadership achievement: Brandi Hewson
Employer: Boshkung Brewing
Highlander of the Year: Andrew Hodgson

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Highlander news

Haliburton stores targeted by thieves

By Mike Baker

Haliburton business owner Kelsey Redman says she's trying to stay upbeat after her Highland Street business, Redmans Records, was hit by a thief twice in three nights last week.

Haliburton Highlands OPP has confirmed they are searching for 29-year-old Connor Davies, who stands to be charged with three counts of breaking and entering, and three counts of theft under $5,000.

Redman said her store was targeted overnight Oct. 19 and again Oct. 21. She provided video footage of the incidents to police, who have issued a warrant for Davies' arrest. Hers wasn't the only store hit recently – Greenleaf Cannabis at the Village Barn was robbed late Oct. 27.

Redman said Davies is a frequent customer at her shop.

"I know who it is… this does absolutely suck, it feels awful, definitely a little discouraging but at least I know it isn't personal. It's weirdly comforting knowing he didn't just go out of his way to target me," Redman said.

She lost a few hundred dollars from her float, a T-shirt and a hoodie – all total losses, since her insurance deductible is worth more than what was taken.

After posting a video about the incident to social media, Redman said the community has really rallied around her.

Angela Ritchie, an employee at Greenleaf Cannabis in Haliburton, said a man broke into the store through a window Oct. 27 and left with about $1,300 worth of merchandise. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

"It's really taken off here this week – so many people have come in, saying they were thinking about buying something but heard about what happened so wanted to show their support," Redman said. "I super appreciate it."

Mark Roy said a lone man broke a window to get into Greenleaf shortly after 11 p.m. Oct. 27 and made away with $90 cash and approximately $1,200 worth of cannabis product. With repairs, Roy pegged his losses at around $2,000.

"We've been open for a few years now and never, ever had an issue," Roy said, noting he's planning to install motion cameras at the Village Barn to deter would-be criminals.

Angela Ritchie, who works at Greenleaf, said the incident has left her feeling uneasy. She said she noticed someone lingering in the area shortly before the store closed at 7 p.m. that evening.

"It sucks knowing this is happening – it makes me wonder how safe I am when locking up at night," Ritchie said, saying the store is open until 9 p.m. some nights.

This is the latest in a long line of robberies in Haliburton village recently. In September, McKeck's Tap & Grill, Emmerson Lumber, Mega Munch, Kosy Korner and cannabis dispensary Fiore Verde were all hit – with mostly money taken. Police did not confirm whether Davies was a suspect in those incidents.

As of press time, Davies remained at large. Cst. Rob Adams said there is an active ongoing investigation and appealed to the public for assistance. Anyone with information regarding the Oct. 19, 21 or 27 break-ins can contact police at 1-888-310-1122 and quote file number E251462863.

Anyone who knows of Davies' whereabouts is asked not to approach him and call police immediately.

To remain anonymous, contact CrimeStoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or online at www.khcrimestoppers.ca. Tips leading to an arrest may be eligible to receive a cash reward up to $2,000.

Dysart supports 73-child daycare in Haliburton village

By Mike Baker

A proposal for a new 73-child daycare in Haliburton village was presented to Dysart et al council for the first time Oct. 28, with elected officials supporting the plan.

An application to temporarily rezone 5152 County Road 21, which houses Haliburton County Development Corporation's 'The Link' space at the front of the building and previously served as Patient News' head office at the back, was advanced last week.

Kris Orsan, the township's manager of planning, said the applicant was seeking a five-year term for a temporary use bylaw that would allow a daycare. He said the township could only authorize a three-year term, due to rules in Ontario's Planning Act,

"Upon expiry, the applicant may request additional exceptions of no more than a three-year period each iteration," Orsan said.

He noted the proposal aligns with Dysart's official and strategic plans.

"By providing accessible childcare, the day nursery directly supports the strategic priority of enhancing community wellbeing and helps build a more inclusive and supportive environment for young families," Orsan said.

The property is owned by Haliburton Lumber and Enterprise, which operates Haliburton Timber Mart on the neighbouring property. The daycare will be run by Jennifer Cid, who attended last week's meeting.

Online records show Cid registered a new corporation, Best Care Ever Inc., in August. She's proposing to have up to 15 staff at the site.

Cid told council she's eager to renovate the property so she can get the daycare open as soon as possible, but Orsan said she requires a building permit. Her proposal needs to be approved by the County, which has requested a traffic brief – showing how the daycare may impact CR21. Chief building official, Karl Korpela, indicated a building permit will only be approved once the County signs off.

"You can always apply for the building permit to do the renovations… but you take the risk that something goes off track with the planning approval, so you could be renovating a building that may not get the ultimate approval," Korpela said. "You can apply to start doing the renovations at any time."

There was no indication of a timeline for County approval, though mayor Murray Fearrey, who sits on the upper-tier council, felt that was a formality.

"This is certainly needed – there's 140 daycare spaces needed in the County," Fearrey said.

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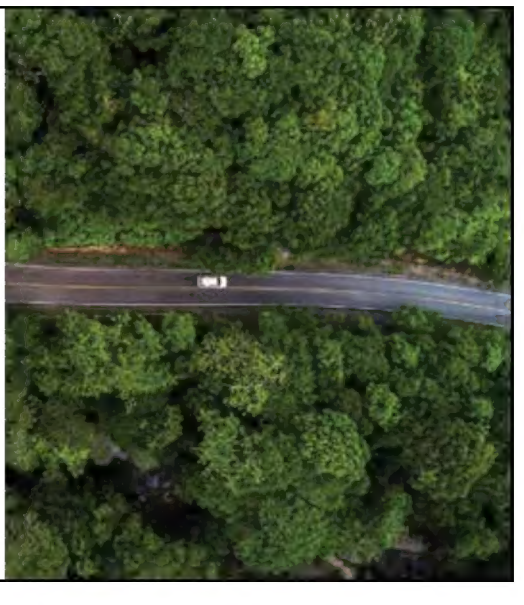

Highlander news

CKL wants more for social services

By Lisa Gervais

The County of Haliburton has been asked to contribute an estimated 27 per cent more for human services managed on its behalf by the City of Kawartha Lakes.

In 2025, the County share was $2,650,528 of a $13,338,555 budget. CKL is asking for $3,362,926 for 2026 to put towards a projected $16,406,572 budget. That's a $712,398 increase in one year.

City of Kawartha Lakes CAO Ron Taylor said the increase was due in part to inflationary pressures, and a two per cent capital infrastructure levy. He added they are looking to hire approximately five more people for human services. Another issue is the failure of the provincial government to provide any funding increases year over year, CKL staff noted.

It means the County is being asked for more money for administration, Ontario Works, early learning and childcare, housing, homelessness, and the KLH Housing Corporation.

Taylor said they are still looking at potentially trimming operating costs and hope to have the budget passed by CKL in late November, trying to "balance good service, but at the same time, taxpayer affordability and sustainability."

County coun. Bob Carter is questioning sustainability with large increases. *File.*

CKL staff added they would be looking to refine their agreement with the County for 2027.

Taylor said, "that is an initiative that we need to do collectively. If you are looking at ways to influence your investment overall in this broad program, that's the formulas, that's the agreement that you need to focus on over 2026 to be able to then influence future contributions and future budgets."

CKL staff also said continued advocacy over provincial government downloading is key, through larger organizations, such as the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus, which would have more punch than the County and CKL.

Following the presentation, coun. Bob Carter said an increase of $750,000 is a three to three-and-a-half per cent tax increase for the County's constituents. He noted CKL was looking at a $2.4 million jump.

"What's the feeling at CKL about being able to sustain these numbers?" He said they did not know what provincial government grants for 2026 were yet, but does not anticipate extra money.

"How do we continue to sustain this? We still have all those things, like roads, ambulances, other departments we have to maintain and support."

Coun. Lisa Schell added she fears middle class people paying increases such as this 27 per cent will get to a point where they might not be able to afford their own homes, putting more pressure on human services.

Taylor said the ask equates to nearly a two per cent increase for CKL, which is "substantive." He noted the County's $700,000 was largely an investment in people to deliver the programming. However, "that investment should start to flat line," he said.

CKL staff added with no increases in provincial funding, their hands are tied, hence the need for advocacy.

Coun. Cec Ryall said in future he would also like information on the cost of not doing the services, saying "people who are going to end up taking the hit are people we all represent."

Highlander news

New arts centre now pegged at $30m+

By Mike Baker

After 16 months of behind-the-scenes work, the group wanting to bring a dedicated performing arts centre to Haliburton County is ready to go public with a freshly-refined plan – and it wants to hear from people, again, on what they want in a new space.

The Haliburton Highlands Arts Centre Foundation (HHACF) is holding a public open house at Pinestone Resort today, Oct. 30, from 5 to 7 p.m. and board member, Beth Kipping, said there's lots of "exciting information" to unpack with the community.

It's been almost three years since HHACF presented results from a feasibility study that suggested the Highlands community could sustain a 400-seat arts facility. Tabled in November 2022, the project was pegged at about $48 million for a theatre space, rehearsal hall, professional backstage facilities, front of house lobby with concessions, office space for theatre management, and music studios.

"When this was presented and the price tag came out, everything went hush in the room. So, we had to start figuring out a way to have a facility that fulfills our wishes and needs up here but try to bring the price down as much as possible," Kipping said. "We don't need the most glamorous building on earth."

Kipping said HHACF's latest proposal is for a $30-35 million build. If all goes to plan, it will be located on a 14-acre parcel on Wonderland Road, near the intersection to County Road 21, that Dysart et al township sold to the group for $1 in June 2024.

It's been all-hands-on-deck for HHACF since then, Kipping said. She estimates the group has spent about $200,000 on the feasibility study, various public engagements and communication plans, preliminary site plan, and environmental and traffic studies.

The next step, she said, is formally submitting a zoning bylaw amendment with the township.

Members of the Haliburton Highlands Arts Centre Foundation board and Dysart et al coun. Pat Casey at the site of a future Haliburton performing arts centre on Wonderland Road. *File.*

Talks with the municipality have gone well so far, Kipping said – with HHACF making a commitment last month to have shovels in the ground by summer 2030.

"It's an exciting time – we'll get a sense of how the public feels at the open house… then, over the next few months, we'll be having meetings and interviews with our stakeholders to review what they want in a performing arts centre, so that we're all totally on the same page," Kipping said. "Then it'll be sitting down with our architect to see how we can do this as cost-effectively as possible."

Kipping said the group hopes to tap into government grants and philanthropist donations to cover at least 75 per cent of the cost – with the remaining 25 per cent to be paid for by the community. HHACF has hired the Peterborough-based Dennis Group to lead the charge on fundraising.

Consultancy firm DM Wills has been assisting with the technical reports, helping to move things forward, though Kipping said HHACF will be hiring a project manager, who will work hand-in-hand with the architect on a detailed design before going back to Dysart council for final site plan approval.

Kipping said the group hopes to iron down construction and annual operating costs sometime next year. She's hoping there will be enough money to build a storage unit, which she said could also include space for a dance studio and residential units.

"We have had talks with different housing companies – we don't know what that would look like right now, but we want to make something work where we wouldn't be the landlords," Kipping said. "We're hoping to have that all sorted out in the next few months."

During the feasibility study, it was claimed a new performing arts centre could generate about $1.2 million annually for the local economy – Kipping said it will create jobs and give people a reason to visit Haliburton County. She said a professional building would help to attract bigger name acts than the 210-seat Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion (NLPAP) at the high school can bring in.

Kipping said she sees a new arts facility as a need, rather than a want.

"We moved to Haliburton 17 years ago – at that point, the arts scene was quite vibrant. But it's exploded since then," she said. "We've outgrown what the NLPAP can give us. Having a new facility is not going to stop them from having stuff happen there – they can co-exist, giving the community two excellent facilities to utilize for the arts."

The open house runs 5 to 7 p.m., with HHACF holding its annual general meeting right after, from 7 to 9 p.m.

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MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

• *Haycock: One Family's Canvas of Canada* will be on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery until Saturday, November 15. This exhibition celebrates the remarkable story of how a chance encounter in 1927 between Maurice Haycock and A.Y. Jackson in Canada's Arctic sparked nearly a century of painting by Maurice, his daughters Kathy and Karole, and his granddaughter Erika. The Gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm. Admission is by donation.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

WINTER PARKING

From Nov 1st to Apr 30th overnight parking is illegal from midnight to 8:00 AM on township roadways and parking lots. Parking in the turning circle of a cul-de-sac is prohibited during all hours. Vehicles parked in areas that interferes with snow removal will be towed away and/or ticketed at the owner's expense.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

October 30 – Regular Council Meeting
November 13 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

FITNESS CLASSES AT THE ARENA

Come and join us at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena for the fitness classes running in November and December. Classes include:

Senior Balance
Buff, Balance, Burn
Warrior/Warrior Lite.

Classes begin the first week of November and run for 6 weeks. Sign up online at www.mindenhills.ca/recreation or in person at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING: PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE TOWNSHIP'S FEES AND CHARGES BY-LAW

Take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will be holding a Public Meeting on Thursday, November 13, 2025, during its Regular Council Meeting regarding proposed changes to the Township's Fees and Charges By-law.

The meeting will commence at 9:00 AM in the Council Chambers located at 7 Milne Street, Minden ON.

Dated this 22nd day of October 2025.
If you have any questions, please contact:
Vicki Bull, Clerk
(705) 286-1260 Ext 515
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Highlander news

A MESSAGE FROM

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Haliburton Highlands CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Sir Sam's general manager David Bishop poses with the retired 'Red Rocket' ski lift. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

Last call for 'legendary' lifts

By Mike Baker

Two legends of Haliburton County have been retired after a combined 97 years of wintertime service to the Highlands community.

The 'Red Rocket' and 'Eagle View' chairlifts at Sir Sam's Ski/Ride were dismantled over the summer, closing the book on the story of the facility's two oldest conveyers. David Bishop, whose family founded the local recreation hub that he now manages, said the machines had been used sparingly in recent years.

The Red Rocket, installed in 1971, ran only once over the past two seasons, during the busy Family Day long weekend in 2024. The Eagle View was operational last season, but wasn't busy, Bishop said.

"I think it was time – both lifts have been around for a lot of years, so it is a very bittersweet moment saying goodbye. I wouldn't say there were tears, but a few moments of reflection for sure, just knowing what they meant to so many people - particularly the Red Rocket," Bishop said.

"When I was 16, my very first summer job was painting the Red Rocket.

"Lots of memories, lots of great times – but the reality is, there's only so much you can do with these machines once they get up there in age. They do have a shelf life," he added.

Bishop said the decision to close the lifts was made earlier this year by a new modernization committee, which he said is looking to make improvements at Sir Sam's.

One of this summer's jobs was recommissioning the upper tunnel and pony lifts, which Bishop said was vital for improving hill access and beginner training. The upper tunnel, constructed in 2009, once again offers a protected route to the top of the hill, while the pony lift supports novice skiers. In total, Bishop said there will be five lifts in use this coming season.

> *When I was 16, my very first summer job was painting the Red Rocket*
>
> ***David Bishop***

The support poles that held up the Red Rocket have been chopped down, meaning the hill will be safer for skiers. Bishop said it will also be easier for staff to move and pack down snow from its snowmaking machines.

While Bishop said Sir Sam's has a higher uphill capacity this year, due to the upgrades, he noted there are plans to install a brand-new chairlift.

"The question is when and where… there's no timeframe at this point, but within the next couple of years would be lovely," Bishop said, noting it will serve the busy side of the hill facing the chalet.

People interested in owning a piece of local history can purchase one of about 100 Red Rocket or Eagle View chairs, which are available for $1,000 if they have legs, or $750 without. Bishop said he's planning to keep one of the Red Rocket chairs for a memorial he hopes to install at the top of the hill next spring.

With winter right around the corner, Bishop said things are ramping up at Sir Sam's. There have been new hydrants and underground piping installed to help with snowmaking, which Bishop said means he won't have to close any runs this season. He's hoping to open the weekend of Dec. 13-14.

"As snow farmers, we are completely tied to the weather. The first year, in 1965, we were opening on Christmas Day and on Christmas Eve it was raining. Even back then, you didn't know what you had and it's even less predictable today," Bishop said. "We need temperatures below -4 Celsius to make the snow and about 14 days of consistent cold weather to get everything ready."

Highlander news

Barb Bolin speaks at the public launch of the Haliburton Highlands Digital Archives. Inset: Ted Brandon walks the public through the site. *Photo by Lisa Gervais*

140 years of newspaper history online

By Lisa Gervas

For more than 100 years, an 1888 edition of the *Minden Echo* sat crumpled in a knot hole, providing insulation behind siding at the back of Banks General Store in Haliburton.

It was located during renovations by a woman who then turned it over to the Haliburton Highlands Museum.

Former employee Steve Hill said he put it into a moisture chamber overnight to soften it up. He was able to lay it flat and put it under glass to hold it so it didn't spring back up.

"That's the best we can do with it," Hill told people at the public launch of the Haliburton Highlands Digital Archives Oct. 22.

At the front of the room, digitization committee member, Ted Brandon, showed the oldest paper in the archives on a projector, replete with an ad for the Dominion Hotel.

"You might say that's only half there," he commented. "We're excited because it's half there. It's pretty darn good."

After scouring basements, back rooms, galleries, museums, and newspaper offices, the committee had Toronto-based company MES Ltd. digitize more than 7,000 Haliburton County newspapers, under some 12 mastheads. Brandon reckons it translates into about 140 years of Highlands history.

Committee member Barb Bolin said the project began as they realized a fire could wipe out much of the Highlands history as recorded in newspapers.

The committee (Jim Blake, Carol Moffatt, Adele Espina, Andrea Brown, Steve Hill, Tom Whillans, Brandon and Bolin) got to work figuring out how to do it, including finding private donors, and service clubs, to help with the cost.

Brandon recalled finding some 1977 editions that were so large they had to be folded twice. It created discoloured waves. Hill remembered how they tracked down 19 editions from 1892 that were used as kitchen flooring, found under linoleum. Former publisher of the *Highlands Express*, Bob Mann, had editions stored in a garage without climate control, rendering them quite dark. Brandon said they weren't sure they'd be usable.

However, he said MES did an "amazing job." Brandon said the papers were in Toronto for 10 months, the first three under a press to flatten them out and getting the yellowing out. They were pleased with the quality of the scans.

Mann said the *Express* copies came out "beautiful. I'm very impressed."

Brandon added there are probably still thousands of newspapers that the archives don't have.

"We are reaching out to the community, asking them to search their basement, their attic, their garage for old copies of local newspapers in the hopes that we will be able to start filling in the gaps."

People can bring pre-1980 local newspapers to a library and they will be taken to the Haliburton Highlands Genealogy Group. They are also looking for other missing editions.

As to the name that appears in the archives the most, it is Dysart et al mayor Murray Fearrey followed by former real estate agent, Bill Kulas.

As to the community reaction to date, Bolin said, "we've just had wonderful, wonderful feedback about the resources available in Haliburton County."

Go to hhda.ca

There will be a free online information session Nov. 12 at 2:30 p.m. Register by visiting HaliburtonCounty.ca/SALC

Editorial opinion

TheHighlander
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OUR MISSION

To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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Businesses honoured

By Mike Baker

It was small business week in Haliburton County last week – and stories in this week's paper highlights some of the best and worst things about being an entrepreneur.

Let's start with the good. Friday night was the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce's 17th annual business excellence awards. The Haliburton Legion was packed with a who's who of the County business community – a celebration of everything owners and operators have overcome during a challenging 12 months.

I was encouraged hearing stories of perseverance and sacrifice, growth and success as award-winners took to the stage to accept their prize. Some were well-established juggernauts of the local business community, others recent upstarts who have managed to pave their own path in Haliburton County.

Last year, Lauren Wilson took a leap of faith by opening Haliburton Village Pharmacy. Her efforts were honoured this past weekend when she scooped the award for best new business. Wind in the Willows Spa, a community staple since 1989, won for best established business – with owner, Sylvia Hollard, noted for the quality of service offered at the Haliburton village spa.

Haliburton Post House, a boutique resort and retreat centre overlooking Lake Kashagawigamog, was named best tourism and hospitality operator. Owner, Heather Milstein, took time to thank all of her staff during her speech – saying the gong was a reflection of them and their hard work.

Haliburton Chiropractic took home the award for best professional services; construction company Hodgkinson Builds won the industry and skilled trades prize; and Coneybeare's Butcher Shop, located in Minden, was recognized as the top retailer. Boshkung Brewing was celebrated as the region's best employer.

A pair of non-profits were also celebrated for all that they do. Brooksong Retreat and Cancer Support Centre took home the Warden's Award – handed out annually to exemplary citizens or organizations who go above and beyond for Haliburton County. Brooksong has been offering free retreats to cancer patients and families at its home base at Abbey Gardens since 2017. About 90 people will attend in-person retreats this year, with others connecting virtually through new online support programs.

Youth Unlimited was named best non-profit, with Leanne Young, a director with the organization, sharing how much of a struggle it was for the group to get back on its feet following the COVID-19 pandemic. Last year, the charity opened the The Bridge Youth Centre in Haliburton village, offering a safe space for students in Grades 4-12 to gather after school. The free drop-in has been utilized by about 60 youth, Young said.

There were a few individual celebrations too – John Watson, a trainer at Sweat Social and formerly Dysart et al's waste manager, was recognized for his exemplary customer service; Sweat Social founder Chelsea Adamson won the best young professional award; Nicole Mee of Forest Lane Counselling took home the top businesswoman gong; Brandi Hewson of WAI Products scooped the individual leadership in business achievement award; and Andrew Hodgson was honoured as the 2025 Highlander of the Year.

The bad news is – as some business owners were celebrating, others were left to pick up the pieces of their Haliburton village stores after a series of break-ins. Redmans Records was hit twice in three days, while Greenleaf Cannabis was also targeted. This comes a month after five other downtown businesses were broken into.

Police have identified a suspect, and charges are expected to be laid. But that doesn't do much for the owners who have taken a hit.

So, if you're in Haliburton village – or Minden – over the next few days, take a moment to stop in at Redmans, Greenleaf, or any of your favourite stores to let owners know how much you appreciate them. Because without our strong business sector, the Highlands community wouldn't be what it is today.

SAWDUST STORIES

Presence in the trades

By Darren Lum

We live in a time where each day feels like a quiet war; a pull between an analog life and a digital one. And most days, the digital wins.

We don't wake to the brilliance of the sun, but to the blue glow of our screens. The answers to life's problems, or distractions from them, seem just a scroll away.

I remember mornings that didn't begin this way. Waking up meant silence. A kind of stillness. The only sound, a radio clock beeping, offering no headlines, no feeds. Just time moving forward and urgency to the day.

There wasn't a disconnection between what is and what will be.

Now, we live in fragments. We watch movies while scrolling. We text while talking. We share life in pieces. We've become distracted from each other - and from ourselves. This shift touches every part of life. Including work.

There was a time journalism felt like a trade. You had to show up, knock on doors, sit across from people and listen with your whole body. But when the pandemic hit, I became a ghost behind a screen. I tried to keep those interactions alive - talking to sources through webcams, conducting interviews in digital waiting rooms. But it wasn't the same. The spark - the intimacy - was gone.

You can't smell the room through a screen. You can't see the sweat on someone's brow or hear the quiet between sentences. You can't write about real life if you're only half in it.

That's what construction returned to me. That's where I found it again. Life on the job site is, by nature, analog.

It's raw. It's direct. You don't get to edit your words - or your work - after the fact. What's done is done, and if it's done wrong, you fix it. Right there. With your hands. There's no "maybe later." There's no "I'll circle back." There's only the task in front of you - the cut, the angle, the bend in the flashing, the grip on the hammer, the weather rolling in, the boards drying in the sun.

It's the opposite of the digital world, where everything feels slippery and abstract. Trade work is real. It's physical. It's immediate. Tangible.

I've spent hours painting trim boards under a wide sky. One coat, then another. Slow, purposeful strokes. No rush. Just layers of paint settling into the grain. Overhead, clouds move in no hurry. A car hums past down the road in Eagle Lake.

But mostly, it's quiet (on this day), except for the wind through the trees and the birds' serenade, broken occasionally by the bark of a resident dog. And in that quiet, something returns: presence. Not the kind you talk about, but the kind you feel in your soul - when your eyes are on the cut, your hands on the tool, and your mind is nowhere else.

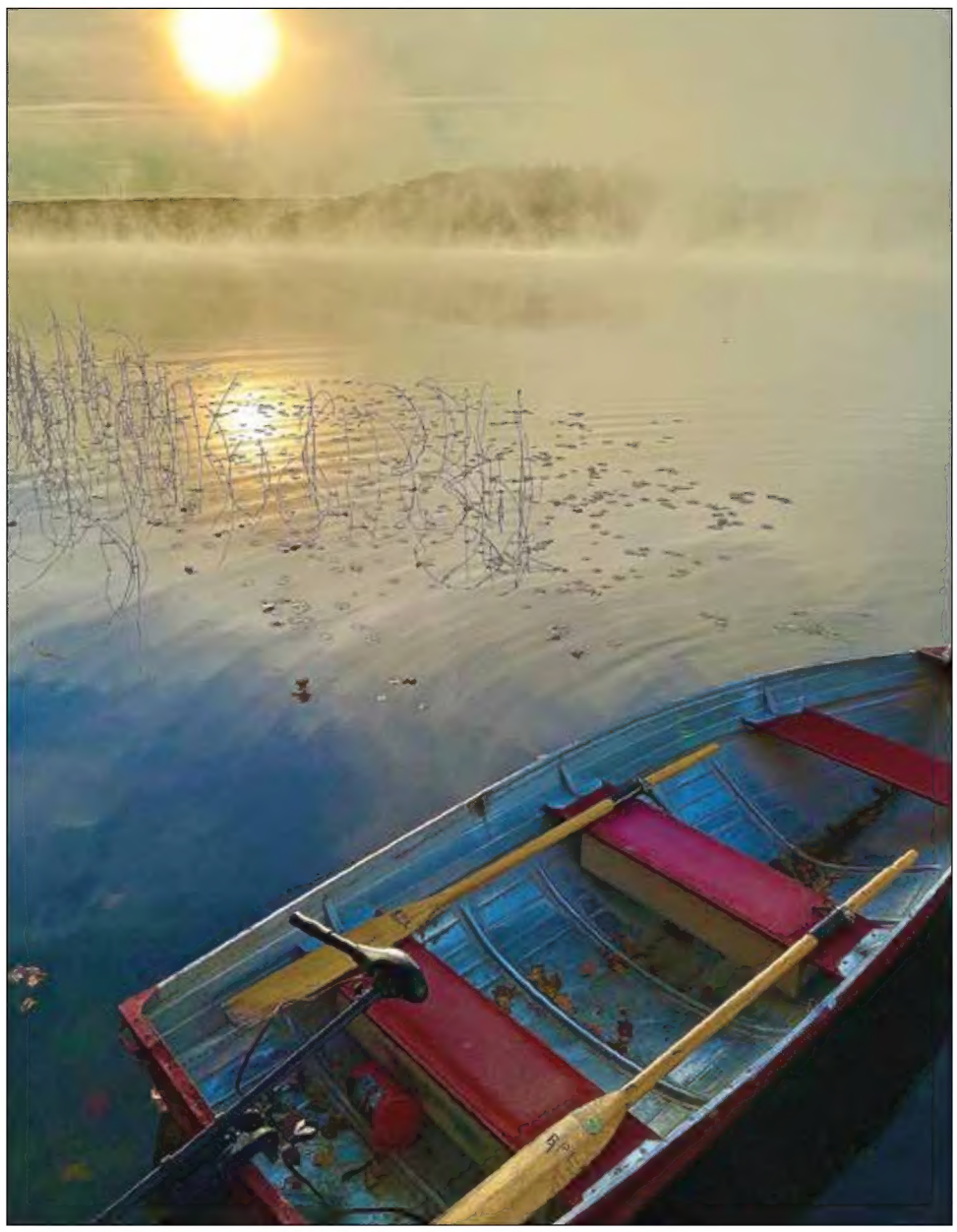
When held to scrutiny, shoddy work doesn't hold up. And neither does a life built on distraction.

To be present in this work - whether I'm painting trim pieces, bending metal, or hauling lumber - is to invest in something that lasts. You can't fake it up close. From a distance, a house or a person might look put together. But when you step closer, you can see: were the corners cut? Did someone care?

The trades are honest in that way. You show up or you don't. The details say everything. We talk a lot about finding ourselves. But I've learned that sometimes it's not about finding anything - it's about building. Building homes, yes. But also, building connection. To the work. To the people around me. And maybe most importantly - to myself.

Editorial opinion

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Yale Brick sent in this photo: 'morning mist on Cranberry Lake.'

LETTERS

Put the rakes and leaf blowers away

Dear editor,

So, on Saturday, when my chores were done, I thought I should sit on my deck in the afternoon, enjoy an adult beverage, and soak up the fall sunshine. Pretty soon, we will be into cold and darkness.

As I sat there observing the world, I wondered how many leaf blowers I could hear in use around me. Was it six or eight? The exact same scenario unfolded on Sunday. My first thought was, if this were 20 years ago, how many rakes would I have heard? Maybe one if my next door neighbours happened to be raking. I realize with larger rural lots a leaf blower is faster, but how did we manage before almost everyone owned one?

My next thought was, aren't we fully aware that leaving some leaves on your lawn is not only somewhat beneficial to your lawn, up to a point, but leaves also provide a home for numerous insects. So, you don't care about insects, but what about frogs and snakes, and then all the insect-eating birds. Doesn't everyone like birds?

My last thought was wondering if people are aware of the research that shows that using a gas-powered leaf blower for one hour produces the same emissions as driving a car 1,800 km.

So, if you insist on clearing leaves, get some exercise and pick up the rake. Better yet, don't, and put the rake and the leaf blower in the back of the shed to be forgotten implements of the past. Grab yourself a beverage and sit and admire the beauty of our world.

Paul Hewitt
Minden

We want to hear from you

Send us your opinion on any and all things related to living here in the County

Contact: editor@thehighlander.ca

HUMANS OF HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS

Highlands perfect for Windsor native

By Susan Tromanhauser

Weddings are a celebration of love; but for Brittney Hicks a wedding is where she discovered love, not only for her now husband, but the Haliburton Highlands.

Hicks, a self-professed tomboy, always knew she was meant to be outdoors. Following family camping vacations near Sauble Beach, Hicks encouraged her father to buy a cottage, but to no avail. Cottage life "seemed so cool," but unattainable-until she received that wedding invitation. A friend's wedding at Beech Lake in Algonquin Highlands set into motion what would change her life; she met a friend of the groom and romance ensued.

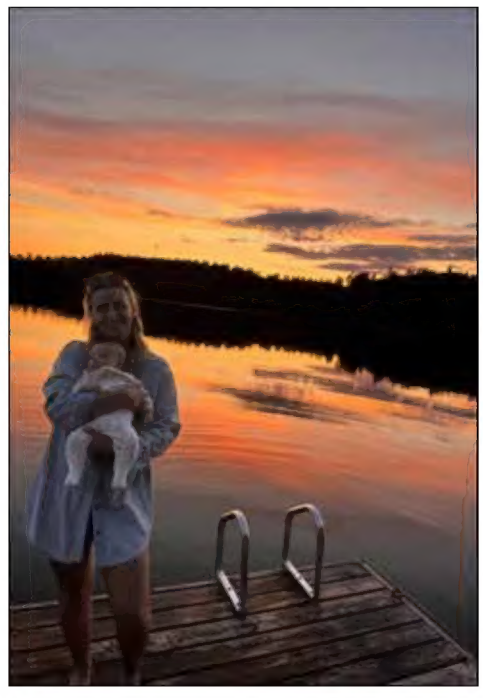
The initial courtship was long distance as Hicks attended school in Ottawa. Soon the impact of COVID meant school transitioned online, and weekends became expanded visits to Algonquin Highlands. Eventually, extended long weekends became a permanent move, soon followed by an engagement. A wedding celebration sealed the deal and her dream of living cottage life. Hicks and her new husband created a home in the Highlands, overlooking Saskatchewan Lake.

The first year of marriage was filled with exploring the County, hiking, boating and fishing in the summer and ice fishing, saunas and even cold plunges through the ice in the winter. Her recreational life balanced with working life when Hicks began an administrative assistant position in the office of her brother-in-law's electrical business.

The biggest adjustment to living in the Highlands was the realization she "married a Hicks boy," meaning going out in public always ends up running into someone she previously met. These meet-ups sometimes result in struggling to match faces to names, but for Hicks, this is a wonderful problem to have. Since day one, everyone, particularly the Hicks family, has been welcoming.

While Hicks has become accustomed to life in the Highlands, three months ago her lifestyle transformed even more. She and her husband welcomed their daughter Heidi to their family. Hicks is thrilled to raise Heidi in Haliburton County. She is excited to raise her daughter growing up on the lake, with the forest to explore and sunsets to admire. Before moving to the Highlands, Hicks had never been on an ATV or a snowmobile and she wants those experiences, when the time is right, for Heidi. She envisions her daughter driving the boat when she is old enough. Hicks is eager for her daughter to enjoy all the opportunities the Highlands has to offer.

Hicks is often in awe of the region, recalling the first time she ever saw a loon, hearing its mournful call. Growing up in Windsor she saw the leaves change colours in the fall, but to Hicks it does not compare to the vibrant colours in the Highlands. Hicks misses her family in Windsor and often makes the five-and-a-half-hour trek to the city. But she is happy Algonquin Highlands is home for her new family.



Brittney Hicks enjoys sunset. *Submitted.*

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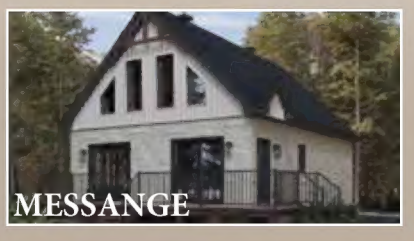

Highlander people

Ghosts and Bigfoot in Haliburton Forest

By Lisa Gervais

Haliburton Forest's Thomas McCay stands at the gravesite of two young girls - sisters who died from diphtheria on consecutive days in 1889.

He is not in a graveyard, but the ghost town of Kennaway, a settlement that existed in what is today, Haliburton Forest, near Harcourt.

He is with members of the Ghost Hunters of the Grand River, a show that airs on APTN, as well as a crew associated with Sasquatch University, who track evidence of Bigfoot. It's all part of new episodes on season three of Sasquatch University, now airing on Wild TV+.

"You see a place like this and it's inherently spooky," McCay says of the graves and the abandoned village, a result of the collapsed white pine industry and missing out on railways and highways.

The ghost and sasquatch hunters recently visited the Forest, camping out in search of paranormal and Bigfoot activity. They finished over the Thanksgiving weekend.

Ryan Willis of Sasquatch University said the ghost hunters brought their paranormal communications equipment. He added the crew recorded the entire stay and went back and listened to see if they had picked up disembodied voices.

"We had some voices come through the spirit box," Willis said. "A voice said 'let them breathe'." Diphtheria affects breathing. "It was really creepy."

Willis said the recorders picked up some Bigfoot evidence, too.

Members of Sasquatch University and the Ghost Hunters of the Grand River camping out in Haliburton Forest. Ryan Willis is second on the right. *Submitted.*

"We managed to get a very definitive tree knock on the recorder and audio of a really loud bang. It sounds like something throwing a log almost." It's believed Bigfoot communicates through tree knocking.

"It was just a good investigation all around and big thanks to Haliburton Forest for having us up."

On Oct. 11, the Sasquatch team did a reveal for Tegan Legge, general manager, tourism and recreation at the Forest.

Legge said she didn't think the ghost town of Kennaway was well known to most people, although "any ghost hunters would; anybody that's really into the history of our County would. I didn't really know about it until (Haliburton Forest) bought the property."

Legge said she interviewed Willis for a job and that was when they first connected. "During the interview, he had kind of pitched 'I do this Sasquatch University show; I think it would be really cool to do it in Haliburton Forest'."

It piqued Legge's curiousity. "I was a bit of a Sasquatch, alien encounters kind of nerd when I was a kid and into early adulthood." She said she is a believer in the paranormal.

Willis reached out in the spring about a mashup with the ghost hunters and Sasquatch University. Legge said she had the perfect place for them. She thought of the ghost town of Kennaway and reached out to McCay, who was open to taking the crews there.

Legge said she was really excited to hear their findings. "It did not disappoint. I definitely had goosebumps from the voices they revealed to me and the knock. All those memories of all that reading and shows I've watched in the past came back to me. I had tears in my eyes and goosebumps and thought this is just crazy, but cool."

Legge said working with the ghost and Bigfoot hunters was a really fun experience "I hope and anticipate they will be back."

The Board of Directors
of Places for People cordially
invites you to the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

20 years ago our founder Fay Martin envisioned an organization creating affordable, supportive housing for Haliburton County. Places for People was born and you are an integral part of it.

Join us as we celebrate our past and look ahead to our future—featuring special announcements, recognition of community contributions, and an opportunity to connect and mingle.

Saturday, November 8th
2:00–5:00 p.m.
Royal Canadian Legion Branch
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Refreshments and appetizers courtesy of Places for People
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MY Haliburton HIGHLANDS
Seniors Active Living Centre

Check out this month's SALC events and activities for residents aged 55+

Nov 3 - 10 a.m.
Winter Driving Webinar

Nov 4, 12, 26, 27 - various times
Genealogy for Seniors

Nov 4, 18 - 3:30 p.m.
Seniors Cooking Workshop

Nov 6, 20 - 10 a.m.
Painting Class

Nov 6, 14, 19,28 - various times
Needle Felting

Nov 12 - 2:30 p.m.
Haliburton Highlands Digital Archives Webinar

Nov 13, 27 - 10:30 a.m.
Chair Yoga

Nov 16 - 1 p.m.
Painting Class: Artist Open House

Nov 17, 22 - various times
Fitness Success Workshop

Nov 19 - 1 p.m.
Crafternoon

Nov 25 - 2 p.m.
Extreme Weather Prep Webinar

Nov 27 - 11 a.m.
Savouring Stories

Fridays - 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.
Seniors Fitness

Drop-in Cards & Board Games
Mondays | 1 pm
and Thursdays | 7 pm
Hosted at Minden Legion

Thursdays (7th & 21st) | 1 pm
Hosted at Harcourt Community Centre

Saturdays 2:30 pm
Hosted at Wilberforce Legion

Ontario

Funding for this program has been provided by the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility

For more info, visit www.haliburtoncounty.ca/SALC or pick up a full calendar at a participating SALC location, including a Legion or Library near you!

WINTER PREPAREDNESS

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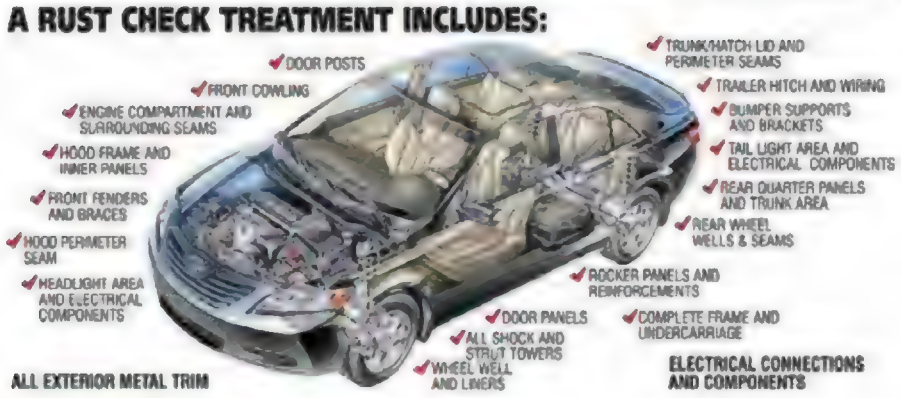

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Getting ready for the thrill of ice racing in Minden

Do you love to race cars or drive competitively - not on the streets, of course? Or, are you a car buff that loves to drive?

Ice racing might just be your next winter thrill. The sport has been captivating Canadian motorsport enthusiasts for more than 50 years, and it's one of the most accessible ways to enjoy racing.

Held each winter in Minden starting mid-January, the races combine skill, speed, and, of course, lots of ice. The best part? Getting started with your own car is easier and more affordable than you might think.

Ice racing is exactly what it sounds like: racing on a track made of ice. These events take place on a prepared track, where the icy run is meticulously crafted by repeatedly laying down water to create a thick, durable surface. Picture a typical racetrack but surrounded by snowbanks and sparkling with ice that tests every ounce of control a driver can muster. Drivers navigate tight turns and long straightaways, constantly adjusting their grip on the frozen surface and challenging their driving skills in ways that dry pavement could never offer.

But ice racing isn't just about speed. It's about control, precision, and adapting to the changing conditions of the ice. The track's surface is constantly shifting as cars race over it, polishing the ice and making it increasingly slick with every lap. Drivers must stay focused and make real-time adjustments, offering a unique racing experience that keeps everyone on their toes. *(Lisa Gervais)*

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WINTER PREPAREDNESS

Drivers whip around the track at the Minden fairgrounds. *File.*

How to get started

You don't need a high-powered race car. Many ice racers begin by renting a car or preparing an older, budget-friendly vehicle that's been taken off the road, whether for age, cosmetic reasons, or minor mechanical needs. Here's how to get started with your own ice racing setup:

1. Choose the right car: smaller, front-wheel-drive cars like the Honda Civic or Hyundai Accent tend to perform very well on ice. In recent years, many Subaru all-wheel-drive cars have been used. Rear-wheel-drive cars also have their own class and would include brands such as Toyota, BMW and Lexus. The key is ensuring the car is mechanically-sound with good brakes and steering.

2. Join a car club and get your licence: Racers must have a valid provincial driver's licence, join a CASC-OR (Canadian Automobile Sport Clubs – Ontario Region) affiliated club, which is affordable, with annual dues starting at around $40. Once you've joined, you'll also need a CASC-OR C (basic) licence, which can be secured online for about $50 plus HST. These registrations facilitate the organization, registration and insurance of events.

3. Prepare your car for the ice: Remove any plastic trim or lights that could break and remove or deactivate air bags. There are two tire choices: tractionized winter tires (standard snow tires that have been 'chewed up' to improve grip) are often used in the basic 'rubber-to-ice' classes. Studded: For additional grip, some racers opt for DOT street stud tires that provide more consistent traction and you simply buy them and put them on your car.

4. Safety gear is simple: A helmet that conforms to Snell 2010M, 2015M or ECE 22.5 is essential, but no additional roll cages or harnesses are necessary. Just the car's standard three-point seatbelt in working order.

5. Sign up for events and get on the track: With car and licence in hand, you're ready for the races. Events run from mid-January through early March, weather permitting, with weekend races for $210, (Saturday $125 and Sunday $85). Newcomers can try a single-weekend event with a temporary licence ($25), letting you test the ice before committing to the whole season. Rookie driver trainer is also provided so that you get a few tips and tricks along with additional track time.

For those eager to learn more, visit the CASC-OR Ice Racing page (www.casc.on.ca/ice-racing) or email the director at iceracedir@casc.on.ca. You can also visit their Facebook group at Ice Racing – Minden. A free webinar is being held Dec. 9, at 7 p.m. where you can learn more and ask questions: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83123376398

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Highlander business

Heat-Line's Matthew Roberts, Lorne Heise, Laura Roberts, Robin Heise and Brent Heise. *Submitted.*

Heat-Line looks to future

By Mike Baker

It's a new era at Heat-Line Freeze Protection Systems, with the Algonquin Highlands-based business recently announcing a change in leadership.

Founders Lorne and Robin Heise, who started the company in 1988, have handed it over to the next generation. Their children, Brent Heise and Laura Roberts, have become vice presidents, while their son-in-law Matthew Roberts has succeeded Lorne as president.

Matthew Roberts told *The Highlander* the move is the formalization of a multi-year succession plan, which he said positions the company well for the future. Lorne and Robin are staying on in strategic positions, he said.

Heat-Line specializes in developing and manufacturing advanced heating cable, heat trace wire, and water pipe freeze protection solutions for residential and commercial markets. Roberts said the business serves four key segments – plumbing, electrical, retail, and original equipment manufacturers.

He said Heat-Line has increased its operations "double digits percentage-wise" over the past year, with a focus on expanding its business with those in the electrical sector. Roberts said the company recently completed its first strategic plan, which he said provides a roadmap for how Heat-Line will navigate the next five years. The company boasts 31 employees.

With about 32 per cent of the company's sales in 2024 being U.S. based, and 40 per cent value-wise of Heat-Line's raw materials coming from the States, Roberts said the company is tied to the U.S. market for the foreseeable future.

Roberts said Heat-Line has been minimally impacted by the ongoing trade war between Canada and the U.S.

"Our sales have not been impacted – 95 per cent of our products are USMCA-registered products (United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement) and fortunately, those products haven't been affected. Have there been challenges? Yes. There are certain products, things that are aluminum-based, but for the most part we've been passing that on to the U.S. consumer," Roberts said, noting some products have been hit with a 50 per cent tariff.

The company has also been hindered by the U.S. scrapping its de minimis rule. Through that legislation, packages could cross into the U.S. without formal entry if they were valued at less than $800, but lawmakers got rid of it in August. That's created a backlog across all processing, with customs required to process an extra four million parcels every day.

"There's absolutely nothing we can do about it – it could take the standard amount of time for things to cross, which is two days, or it could take two-to-three weeks," Roberts said. "It's created a challenge for us because we have a lot of packages stuck at the border. We've been eating costs and shipping multiples of the same item, hoping one gets through and then we can try to get the others back."

Roberts said many products are also being processed incorrectly, at higher tariff rates, saying Heat-Line typically has between 70 and 80 ongoing disputes with customs.

While Roberts said Heat-Line will never leave its home base in the Highlands, the company is looking to expand into the U.S.

"Having a U.S. location is on our radar. It may happen, it may not, but it's always been a long-term strategic priority for us. It would be an addition to and complement what is already existing; it would never be relocating resources from here to the U.S.," he said.

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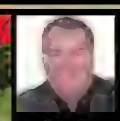

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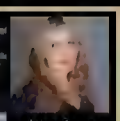


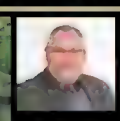
Lindsay Elder* (705) 457-5878

Your Dream Home Awaits!
- Now is the perfect time to get your home or cottage on the market!
- Call me for a market evaluation!

SOLD

Melanie Maxwell-Hevesi**& Andrea Wilson** (705) 854-1000

Beautiful Home on Minden Lake!
- 4,650 Sq Ft, 4 Bed, 3 Bath Home
- Indoor Saltwater Pool, 125' Frontage
- Minutes To Minden & Amenities



Andrew Hodgson** (705) 854-0130

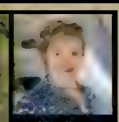
Haliburton Lake $999,000
- Year-round retreat at water's edge
- 3 beds + bunkie, heated garage & gazebo
- Sandy beach, deep water off the dock

Susanne James* & Andy Mosher** (705) 457-2128 ext. 133

Miskwabi Lake – $1,199,000
- Spectacular Point Lot with 330' frontage
- 4 Season, 3 Br + Den. 2-Lake Chain
- Easy Year Round Access

Karyn Linton Marra* (705) 306-7515

Log Home on 24 Acres $750,000
- Two, 2-Bedroom Artists Homes
- In-law or short term rental, expansive deck
- Pond, Stream, Trails, Pool and Firepit



Kathy Martin* (705) 457-7592

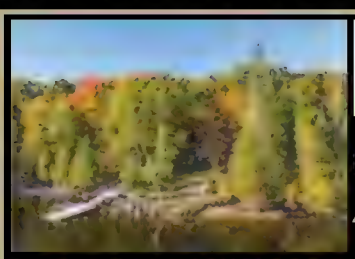
Beech Lake $1,295,000
- 6 beds, 3 baths, west exposure
- Granite fireplace, screened porch
- Sandy beach, new dock, 5 mins to town

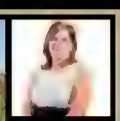
Ashley McKeigue* (705) 854-1833

Business On Hwy 118 $799,999
- 18-Acre Property, Custom-Built in 2022
- Prime Location on Busy Hwy, 1,200SqFt
- 3 Cozy Bunkies for Guests or Storage

Brandon Nimigon*** (705) 457-8631

Grace Lake $1,250,000
- 198ft Pristine Lakefront View
- Open-Concept Main Floor Living
- 3-car garage, walkout lower level





Karen Nimigon** (705) 457-6505

Soyers Lake $879,000
- Fully Furnished 4-Season Retreat
- Sandy Shoreline, Dock & 5-Lake Chain
- Yr-Rnd Road, Btwn Haliburton & Minden

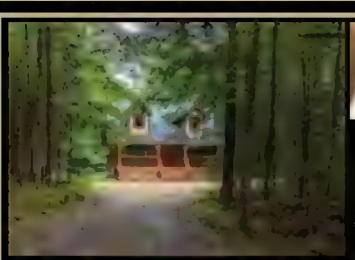
NEW LISTING

Kelly Kay* (705) 457-6841 Kirsten Rae* (705) 854-1454

Unicorn Road $1,300,000
- Custom executive bungalow on 4.5 acres in the coveted Gainforth Estates
- 2800+ SqFt, Attached 23x30 Garage

Darlene Reil* (705) 854-2055

Irondale River $324,900
- Well kept 3 bedroom home with garage
- Workshop, "she" shed, walk to amenities
- Storage sheds along the Irondale River

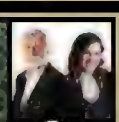


Christine Sharp* (416) 566-1592

Storybook Log Cabin $595,000
- Charming winterized log cabin home
- 8+ acres of private woods, cozy porch
- Close to Tory Hill & trails

Melanie Vigrass* (705) 754-5494

Redner Road $624,000
- Beautiful Open Concept Home
- 2 Bdrm+Den, 2 Stunning Renovated Baths
- Main Lvl Laundry, Full Finished Lower Lvl



Tom Wilkinson** (705) 457-6839 Lindsay Wilkinson* (705) 854-1454

Gull River $924,900
- Energy efficient home
- 3 beds, 3 baths + large garage with loft
- 1.5 acre lot with excellent privacy

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Highlander environment

New-look Dahl back open after storm

By Mike Baker

It's been more than six months of "painstaking" work for about 20 County-based volunteers, but the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust (HHLT) has reopened its seven trails around Dahl Forest nature reserve.

The 500-acre site was closed to the public following the March ice storm, with HHLT's Joan Duhaime saying hundreds of felled trees had to be cleared from the roughly five-kilometre trails system, while several "danger trees" – still standing, but at-risk of falling – also had to be cut down.

Duhaime said that's brought on a new-look for the reserve, which reopened Oct. 9.

"The red pine plantation was very badly impacted – there were literally hundreds of trees down," Duhaime said. "We're leaving the limbs where they are. The forest will regenerate, which is a good thing. This all seems really bad...but this is a very natural thing. We think this might increase the diversity of the forest.

"It didn't happen in a way that we would have chosen, but we can already see new growth in there because there's so much more light coming in now," Duhaime said.

The Land Trust raised $16,000 for clean-up, with about half of that spent so far. Duhaime said HHLT hired Geeza Road Mini Excavation Co. to help clear trails.

"It took them four full days with a tractor and grappler to get through everything," Duhaime said, with limbs pushed back into the forest. She said Outram Tree Services were drafted in to deal with the danger trees – with one more felled last week.

The big stumbling block to reopening was dealing with downed hydro lines, which connected to a house Peter and Jan Dahl were using at the time of the storm. Duhaime said HHLT opted to remove the poles and wires and leave the property without a hydro connection.

Because the Dahls donated the land to HHLT, in 2009 via the federal government's ecological gifts program, Duhaime said the Land Trust has to get approval before it makes any changes to land use.

"We'll be talking to see what we can do with the house, if we can still use it," Duhaime said.

The Dahls, who lived at the house for part of the year, have opted to relocate permanently to British Columbia.

Duhaime said the aftermath of the ice storm has been the most significant event the Land Trust has ever had to deal with – saying volunteers assisted with fundraising, contractor visits, project estimates and budgets, and dealing with insurance.

Work will continue, she said – there's leftover funds to deal with any problematic trees, while a partnership with U-Links could be right around the corner.

"We've put in a proposal to have someone study the regeneration process of the plantation. It'll be quite interesting noting the impacts," Duhaime said. "I live across from Geeza Road and there was a red pine plantation beside our driveway. We're now seeing a lot of different trees we didn't even know were in there."

She said public response to the reopening has been strong, with many taking to the trails over the past couple of weeks.

"We know people are keen to get out there and hike on the trails again, but we are warning folks to be cautious," she said. "It's not like there's anything in there that will be toppling frequently, but the forest took a battering. As snow starts to fall, or we have a windy day, new things arise. So, we're keeping our eye on some areas and how things develop."

Duhaime confirmed 'Discovery Days' will be back in 2026, with HHLT receiving another grant from the TD Friends of the Environment Fund to run the initiative. "We're planning a great schedule of events for next year"

Dahl Forest nature reserve was reopened to the public Oct. 9. *Submitted.*

Harcourt Park INC.

Request for Quotation

Community Centre Decks

Inviting Quotations from Qualified Contractors

Description: Build new decks at Harcourt Park Community Centre

Timeframe: May 2026

Location: 2141 Sumcot Road Harcourt, Ontario

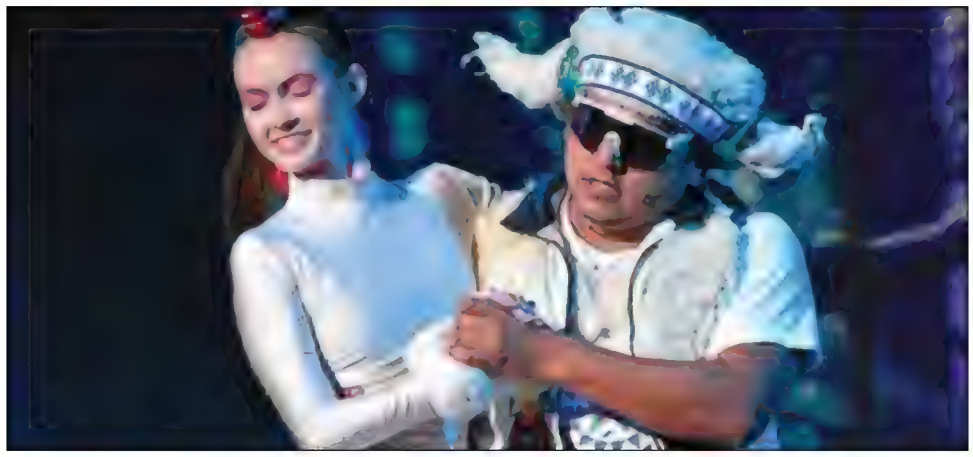
Documents available: Request for Quotation requirements, Stamped Engineered drawings, Schedule 1 Designer Information.

A mandatory site visit is required to evaluate construction requirements

Closing Date: December 5, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. EST

To receive a Request for Quote package, contact admin@harcourtpark.ca

Highlander events



Razza-return

Razzamataz Kids' Shows returned for its 2025-26 season Oct. 26, welcoming The Chimera Project for its production of *Silly Billy.* The hour-long show brought western and Indigenous art forms together on-stage, telling the story of a creature who lives a difficult life because it's different. Following the show, about a dozen youth participated in a workshop where they learned how to hoop dance. There are three more productions this season - *Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch*, a heartwarming puppet play put on by British Columbia's Axis Theatre, visiting Jan. 25; Wee Festival's *The Old Man and the River* March 8; and the musical show *Earth, Seas and Air*, performed by Chris McKhool, on April 12.

Top: Emma Curtis showed off her ballet skills as a dancing unicorn in *Silly Billy.* Middle: Curtis and Arik Pipestem dancing together. Bottom: Pipestem leads about a dozen kids through a hoop dancing workshop following the show. *Photos by Steve Sherwood.*

Township of Algonquin Highlands

FORM 6
SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER
Municipal Act, 2001
Ontario Regulation 181/03, Municipal Tax Sale Rules

SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ALGONQUIN HIGHLANDS

Take Notice that tenders are invited for the purchase of the land described below and will be received until 3:00 p.m. local time on November 27, 2025, at the Algonquin Highlands Municipal Office, 1123 North Shore Road, Algonquin Highlands, Ontario.

The tenders will then be opened in public on the same day as soon as possible after 3:00 p.m. at the Algonquin Highlands Municipal Office, 1123 North Shore Road, Algonquin Highlands.

Description of Land:
Roll No. 46 21 001 000 26300 0000; 1295 BUCKSLIDE RD., ALGONQUIN HIGHLANDS; PINs 39123-0283 (LT) & 39125-0106 (LT); FIRSTLY: BLK B PL 334; S/T H87511; ALGONQUIN HIGHLANDS; SECONDLY: BLK C PL 334 S/T H87511; ALGONQUIN HIGHLANDS; File No. 24-01
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $796,000
Minimum tender amount: $42,018.92

Tenders must be submitted in the prescribed form and must be accompanied by a deposit of at least 20 per cent of the tender amount, which deposit shall be made by way of a certified cheque/bank draft/ money order payable to the municipality.

Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to or any other matters relating to the land to be sold. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers. The assessed value, according to the last returned assessment roll, may or may not be representative of the current market value of the property.

Pursuant to the Prohibition on the Purchase of Residential Property by Non-Canadians Act, S.C. 2022, c. 10, s. 235 (the "Act"), effective January 1, 2023, it is prohibited for a non-Canadian to purchase, directly or indirectly, any residential property, as those terms are defined in the legislation. Contraventions of the Act are punishable by a fine, and offending purchasers may be ordered to sell the residential property.

The municipality assumes no responsibility whatsoever for ensuring bidders/tenderers comply with the Act, and makes no representations regarding same. Prospective bidders/tenderers are solely responsible for ensuring compliance with the Act and are advised to seek legal advice before participating in this sale.
Transfers of properties that contain at least one and not more than six single family residences and are transferred to non-residents of Canada or foreign entities, are subject to the Province's Non-Resident Speculation Tax (NRST).

This sale is governed by the *Municipal Act, 2001* and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act. The successful purchaser will be required to pay the amount tendered plus accumulated taxes and any taxes that may be applicable, such as a land transfer tax and HST.

TAKE NOTICE: Where a refund is claimed by a qualifying first-time Homebuyer under the Land Transfer Tax Act, the Municipality requires the purchaser to retain legal counsel to complete the transfer.

The municipality has no obligation to provide vacant possession to the successful purchaser.

A copy of the prescribed form of tender is available on the website of the Government of Ontario Central Forms Repository under the listing for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

For further information regarding this sale and a copy of the prescribed form of tender, visit:

www.OntarioTaxSales.ca
or if no internet access available, contact:

Bradley Bernhardt,
Tax Administrator The Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Road
Algonquin Highlands ON K0M 1S0
705-489-2379 Ext. 323
bbernhardt@algonquinhighlands.ca
www.algonquinhighlands.ca

HIFF HALIBURTON INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2025

WEEKEND PASS $65

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7 – HIGHLANDS CINEMA IN KINMOUNT

2:00PM 7:00PM

Frankenstein | 149 min | Mexico/USA
drama/fantasy/horror/sci-fi

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS: Hank DeBruin, Tanya McCready, Charles Taylor and Kevin Hebib

Oscar-winning director Guillermo del Toro adapts Mary Shelley's classic tale of Victor Frankenstein, a brilliant but egotistical scientist who brings a creature to life in a monstrous experiment that ultimately leads to the undoing of both the creator and his tragic creation. This multi-layered and beautifully filmed story will be screened at the iconic Highlands Cinema in Kinmount! We are excited to welcome Haliburton's own Hank DeBruin and Tanya McCready of Winterdance Dogsled Tours and other guests to talk about their roles in the movie.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8 – NORTHERN LIGHTS PERFORMING ARTS PAVILION

10:00AM

Youngblood | 105 min | Canada
drama/romance/sport

Dean Youngblood, a hockey prodigy who joins the Hamilton Bulldogs, has to deal with toxic behavior during his journey to the National Hockey League draft. This intelligent and thoughtful take on masculinity and race is a remake with a different approach from the 1986 film of the same name. Dedicated to original director, Charles Officer. High drama, intense, character focused, not just about hockey but about choices, relationships, power dynamics, systemic issues, and character growth.

3:30PM

Little Lorraine | 115 min | Canada
crime/drama

SPECIAL GUEST: TBC

After a mine disaster leads to the mine's permanent closure in Little Lorraine, a small North Atlantic seaside town with a population of 60, many families find themselves without any income. The movie Little Lorraine is based on true events and is a cautionary Canadian story showing what can happen when faced with few choices.

1:00PM

Once Upon My Mother | 102 min | France/Canada
drama | subtitles

When her baby is born with a clubfoot in 1963, Esther promises her son that, not only will he be able to walk, he will have a wonderful life. The story of a mother's unwavering love and devotion for her child as she overcomes physical challenges and social barriers. Her powerful promise drives their remarkable journey through life's ups and downs.

7:30PM

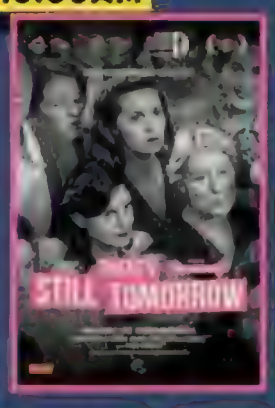
DJ Ahmet | 97 min | North Macedonia/
Czech Republic/Serbia/Croatia
comedy/drama | subtitles

SPECIAL GUESTS: Ron Mann & Mercy Lam from Films We Like

Ahmet, a 15-year old boy from a remote Yuruk village in northern Macedonia and his mute brother find solace in music while navigating grief over their mother and a controlling father. Music helps him deal with parental expectations, societal conservatism, and forbidden love for a promised girl. This film was an audience favourite at the Cinéfest film festival in Sudbury.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9 – NORTHERN LIGHTS PERFORMING ARTS PAVILION

10:00AM



There's Still Tomorrow | 118 min | Italy
drama/history | subtitles

In this moving drama set in postwar Rome, a working-class woman dreams of a better future for herself and her daughter while facing abuse at the hands of her domineering husband. When a mysterious letter arrives, she discovers the courage to change the circumstances of her life. An Italian box office phenomenon and winner of six Italian Academy Awards.

1:00PM

Köln 75 | 116 min | Germany/Poland/Belgium
biography/drama/music | subtitles

Köln 75 follows 18 year old Vera Brandes as she defies her conservative parents to organize a Keith Jarrett concert in Cologne in 1975. Despite near failures, the impromptu performance became the iconic album The Köln Concert, which went on to become the bestselling solo jazz album – and the bestselling solo piano album of all time.

3:00PM **WRAP PARTY**

Buy passes & Frankenstein tickets at **thoseothermovies.com**.
Single tickets when available, $10 at the door.

Highlander events

A frighteningly good time

There was a spooky feeling at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre Oct. 25 as staff transformed the historical site into a Halloween-themed free-for-all for the third annual Haunting in Minden Hills. Attendees were treated to a witch dance workshop, pumpkin carving, Halloween games, mini-broom craft, costume parade and scavenger hunt. The Minden & District Lions Club kept folks warm with hot chocolate and sweet treats.

Top: Arlo and Sid Green dressed up as their favourite Toronto Blue Jays. Middle: Nine-year-old Lawsyn Nesbitt and mom Janelle Nesbitt show off their carving masterpiece. Bottom: Chloe Thomas-Williamson participates in the witches dance workshop, led by Tiffany Howe, Julie Barban and Melissa Tong. *Photos by Steve Sherwood.*

SIR SAM'S INN & SPA

NOVEMBER EVENTS

LIVE MUSIC ALL MONTH LONG:

November 1 - Gord Kidd and Friends
November 7 & 8 - Red Wine and Wild Game
November 8 - Cam Galloway
Nov 15 - Jeff Moulton
November 22 - Bill Black
November 29 - Albert Saxby

NEW Dining Packages - Let us do the cooking this week! Call for reservations (705) 754 2188

Dip n Dine Package Sunday through Thursday, add our relaxing WaterSpa experience for two for just $15 more when you make a dinner reservation!

Prime Rib Monday! Settle into our lakeview dining room for slow-roasted perfection with Yorkshire pudding, au jus, and your choice of potato and salad.

Fish Fryday Join us Fridays and enjoy Halibut and Chips for $28.95 OR Pan Seared Pickerel or Salmon with your choice of potato $38, both include salad and are plus tax

Red Wine and Wild Game Join us Saturday November 8 for our delicious wild game dishes paired with the perfect red wines from our cellar. Call for reservations and info.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21st, 2025 ~ 6:30pm
A Canadian Christmas
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To enter contact
Jim Frost at 705 457-4031 or
jandmfrost@outlook.com

At the Town Tree, there will be caroling at 5:30 pm and Tree Lighting at 6:00 pm

The parade is proudly brought to you by the Downtown Haliburton Business Association and the Haliburton & District Lions Club

The Huskies

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Forward Isaac Larmand breaks in on the Muskies net Oct. 25 in Minden. *Photo by Steven Sherwood.*

Starting on time key to Huskies success

By Lisa Gervais

Haliburton County Huskies forward Julius da Silva had a big game Oct. 25 versus the rival Lindsay Muskies, but it wasn't enough as the Fish speared the blue and white 3-2 last Saturday night at home.

Lindsay opened the scoring at 7:24 of the first period, on a Kai Williams tally at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena.

However, da Silva scored at 18:27 on a power play, his fifth of the season to that point, to tie the score, with the primary helper going to Connor Hollebek, and the other assist to Alex Rossi. The PP marker tied the game at ones going into intermission.

Then, just 2:18 into the second, da Silva notched another goal – this one short-handed to give the Huskies a 2-1 lead. Ivan Mentiukov notched the assist.

The Muskies answered the bell at 17:27 when Nole Faulkner fired one past Carter Nadon to tie it at twos.

In the third, it was Vincent Gazquez scoring at 5:13 to break the Huskies backs. Nadon turned aside 25 of 28 shots.

Da Silva told *The Highlander*, "Saturday's loss was really disappointing, especially up against the Muskies.

"You never want to lose, but I thought we battled hard and we know what we need to work on to be successful."

As for the rare man advantage goal followed by a shorty, da Silva said, "on the power play, we moved the puck around well, and I just found a good spot in front of the net, my teammates made it easy, I just had to tip it home.

"The shorty was off a read in the neutral zone, and about pressuring their D to try and create a turnover. To be honest with you, at the moment, I didn't think too much about it, just wanted to get a bit creative and go between the legs so I went for it."

Da Silva added, "the team's been working hard to stay consistent all game long, which we know we have to do better at, which is what our coaches have had us focused on. Although we've had some disappointing losses, we've also had some great team wins, and the losses aren't as one-sided as they were in September.

"I think we all see the importance of being consistent all 60 minutes and starting on time right from the get-go, and we need to find a way to execute on that because the nights we do, it pays off for us."

Huskies win in OT

On Oct. 24, the Huskies scored just 55 seconds into overtime to defeat the Markham Royals on the road.

Defenceman Josh Hutton scored his first goal of the season to give his team the win, with assists to Kaiden Thatcher and Nic Ferrante.

In the road tilt last Friday night, the Royals got off to a fast 2-0 lead. The Huskies answered with three of their own (Kieran Raynor, Oliver Tang and Chase Del Colombo). But, in the third, the Royals pushed for the equalizer, and got it at 10:53. That set up a dramatic overtime with Hutton playing hero in the 4-3 win.

The Huskies travelled to Newmarket Oct. 28 for a tilt with the Hurricanes, winning the game 5-4. They next play Nov 5 vs Buffalo on the road.

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HALIBURTON COUNTY HUSKIES
GO! HUSKIES GO!

Home of the Highland Storm

Austin Cunningham heads into the Leafs' end. *Photos by Steven Sherwood.*

Leafs fall to Storm winds

It was a brisk start to a Saturday morning, on Oct. 25, as the Curry Chevrolet U13 Rep team hosted the visiting Orono Leafs.

Halfway through the first period, Austin Cunningham opened the scoring, finding the back of the net off a set up from Grayson Park. Shortly after, William Brown crashed the crease to bury a rebound, doubling the lead.

Chase Casey made it 3–0 with a great finish following a smooth pass from James Hamilton. Park struck again later in the period, assisted by Cunningham and Jaxon Demerchant.

Orono responded with a quick power play goal, but goaltender Liam Scheffee stood tall the rest of the way, shutting the door on several quality chances.

Adding to the tally were Park, Everett Bjelis, Demerchant, and Blake Little, each netting another goal to round out a strong team performance. Final Score 8-2. (*Submitted*)

STARS of the WEEK

BLAKE LITTLE

Great ability to hold the blueline and foresee plays developing in the offensive zone; a goal and an assist.

JAXON DEMERCHANT

His shots from the point were on target, creating chances for the forwards; a goal and two assists.

GRAYSON PARK

His ability to see the ice and heads-up play led to scoring opportunities; two goals and an assist.

Photos by Tim Tofflemire.

SCORE BOARD

Oct. 14 U15 LL Minden Pharmasave vs U15 The Peppermill Steak & Pasta House 1-4 (W for Peppermill)
U18 Rep Haliburton TimberMart vs Mariposa 4-1 W
Oct. 16 U13 LL Casey's Water Well & Geothermal vs Mariposa 10-2 W
U11 LL Carquest Minden vs Sturgeon 4-1 W
Oct. 17 U15 REP Cheryl Smith RE/MAX vs Brock 2-2 T
Oct. 18 U11 REP Tom Prentice & Sons vs Mariposa 4-1 W
U13 LL Casey's Water Well & Geothermal vs Millbrook 2-1 W
U13 REP Curry Chevrolet vs Newcastle 10-1 W
U15 LL The Peppermill Steak & Pasta House vs Manvers 4-3 W
U15 LL Minden Pharmasave vs Durham 6-2 L
U11 REP Tom Prentice & Sons vs Brock 8-1 W
U18 LL A&W Haliburton vs Millbrook 7-2 L

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What's on

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Office open 9 a.m. to noon, clubroom closed. Bridge at 1 p.m.
Tuesdays: Games and cards night starting at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome. Fun darts at 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, Remembrance Hall. Bingo, doors open at 5 p.m. with a 7 p.m. start time, Remembrance Hall. Snack bar available from 5:30 p.m. – French fries and hot dogs available while supplies last.
Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month, ladies auxiliary meeting last Thursday of the month.
Fridays: meat draw, five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts 4:30 p.m. onwards. 50/50 draw at 5 p.m., tickets are $1 and available in the clubroom. Beginning July 4, board games for seniors from 10 a.m. to noon.
Saturdays: Open only for special events Clubroom hours: Monday 3-9 p.m., Tues 5-9 p.m., Wed/Thurs 3-6 p.m., Fri 3-7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday closed.
Upcoming events: Drum circle Nov. 16, Dec. 7, Jan. 4, with a 1 p.m. start time.

Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden

Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Monday to Thursday** with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' Tuesday.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 4-7 p.m.
Saturday all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
Weekly activities:
Karaoke: call for dates
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week.
Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce

Monday: open 7 to 10 p.m. Nov. 3, 10, 17 and 24 is darts at 7 p.m. $5/player
Tuesday: closed, special events only Nov. 11 is the Remembrance Day service at the Cenotaph at 11 a.m. Lunch at the Legion to follow.
Wednesday: open 2 to 10 p.m. Nov. 5, 12, 19 and 26 is darts at 2 p.m. $5/player. There's also quick supper from 5 to 6:30 p.m., with the menu changing weekly. Cost is $10 per person. And Cribbage League starts at 6:30 p.m.
Thursday: open 2 to 10 p.m. Nov. 6, 13, 20 and 27 cornhole at 7 p.m. Nov. 13 and 27 HHHS Social Rec 10 a.m.
Friday: open 2 to 11 p.m.
Nov. 14 and 28 Community Care 55+ Lunch $17, at noon; Fish and chips, one piece $15, two piece $20 . Nov. 7 and 21 is wings and jam session from 5 to 8 p.m. $15 per pound.
Saturday: open 2 to 9 p.m. Nov. 1, 15, 29 is open mic from 2 to 6 p.m. Nov. 15 is the fall dance from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., free admission. Nov. 29 is trivia night at 7 p.m. $5/player.
Sunday: closed, special events only. Nov. 9, LA Breakfast from 9-11 a.m. Cost is $10 per person. Nov. 16 open house with local artist Luann Coghlan from 1 to 4 p.m.

EVENTS

SIRCH Community Services is preparing for its annual Share the Warmth program, a County-wide initiative ensuring everyone has access to coats, boots, hats and other winter gear. Clean and gently-used gear can be dropped off between Oct. 9 and 30 in Haliburton at Foodland, Todd's Independent, Glecoff's, and Home Hardware, and in Minden at Dollo's Foodland, Home Hardware, St. Paul's Anglican Church and Valu-Mart. Giveaway events are at St. Paul's in Minden Nov. 8, SIRCH Bistro and Bakery in Haliburton Nov. 9 and the Thrift Warehouse in Bancroft Nov. 15.

Oct. 31, 1 to 2 p.m. Needle felting workshop at the Dorset library. No prior experience needed – staff will provide a step-by-step guide through the basics of shaping, layering and finishing your felted piece. We'll be creating mini pumpkins. Registration required – contact 705-457-2241 or programs@haliburtonlibrary.ca.

Nov. 1, 7 to 9:30 p.m. Halloween line dancing event at the Pinestone Resort. There will be a lesson from 7-8:30 p.m. with an open dance floor to follow. People are encouraged to dress up, with a prize for best costume. There will be a karaoke dance party at Stone 21 restaurant from 8 p.m. to close.

Nov. 2, 1 to 3 p.m. Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library presents an afternoon with Linden MacIntyre, author of *An Accidental Villain*, at the Haliburton Legion. The event doubles as the Friends' 17th annual library fundraiser, with a silent auction and refreshments available. Tickets are $25 and can be purchased at the Minden Book Nook or by contacting Penny at 705-286-3276 or Sue at 705-286-2000. All proceeds support library programs through the County.

Nov. 6, 1 p.m. *Rosies of the North* (1999) will be screened at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre. Directed by Kelly Saxberg, this National Film Board documentary tells the story of the women who worked at the Canadian Car and Foundry plant in Fort William (now Thunder Bay), Ontario, during World War II. These women played a vital role in building Hawker Hurricane fighter planes, stepping into industrial roles traditionally held by men.

Nov. 7-9, all day. The Haliburton International Film Festival returns to Haliburton County, with seven movies being shown at two locations (Highlands Cinemas in Kinmount and the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion in Haliburton). For more information, visit www.thoseothermovies.com.

Nov. 9, 1 p.m. The Arts Council – Haliburton Highlands is hosting its annual general meeting at the Haliburton Highlands Museum. Register at https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/agm-2025-tickets-1777884172419.

Nov. 13, 7:30 p.m. CASC Ice Race Division is hosting two webinars teaching people all about ice racing. Taking place Nov. 13 and Dec. 11 at 7:30 p.m. Learn how to get started, what cars make the cut, and why this winter sport is unlike anything else. For more information, visit www.casc.on.ca/ice-racing.

Junior highlanders

Jaguars make finals

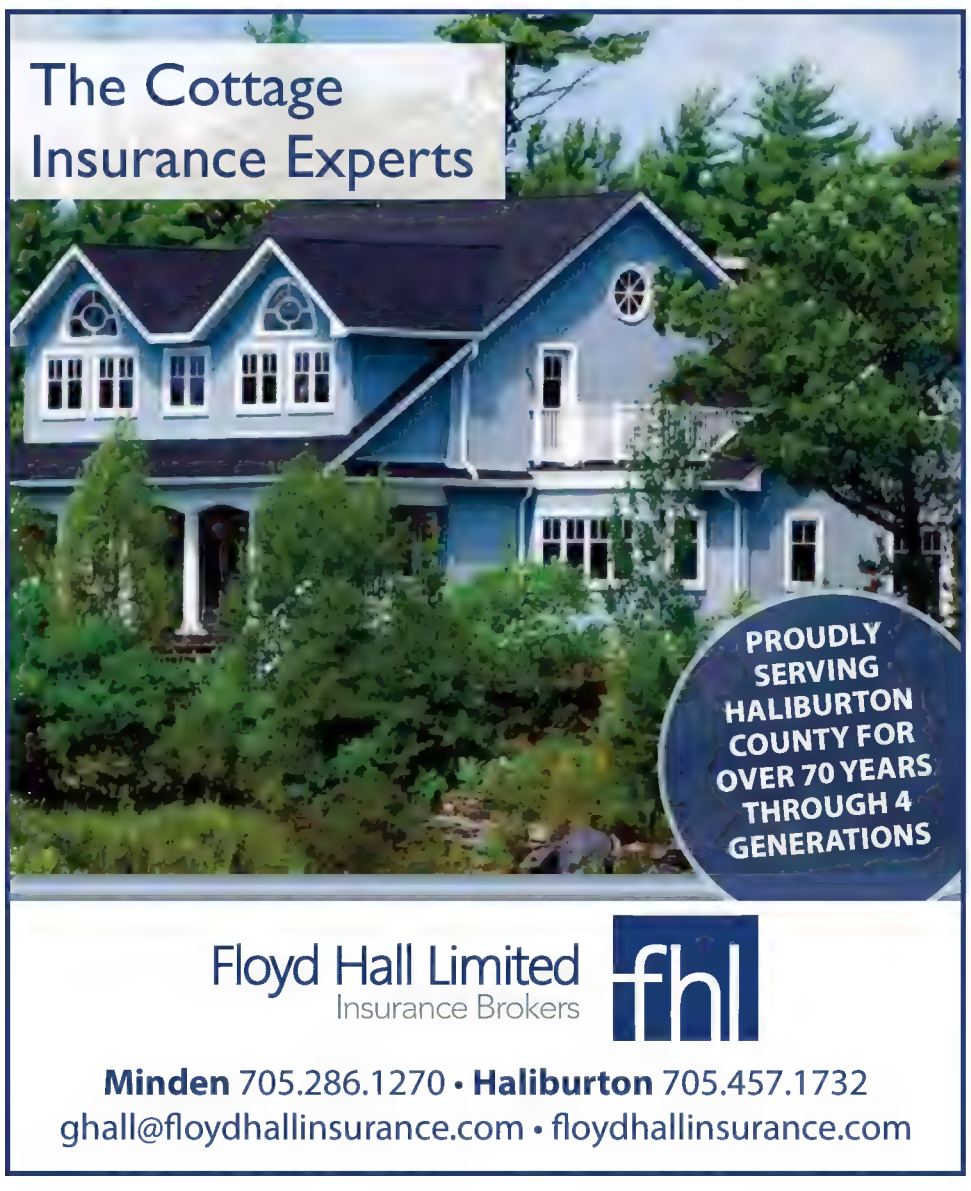
On Wednesday, Oct. 22 the Jaguars intermediate girls' soccer team from J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School represented Haliburton at the district finals tournament in Cameron. They completed the first round with a win, a loss, and a tie to finish in second place. They advanced to the semi-finals where they beat the Fenelon Falls Tigers 2-0 to qualify for the finals. In the final game, they came up short losing 2-0 to the Lady Mackenzie Lynx from Kirkfield. (*Submitted*)

Above: Evelyn Mardus tries to beat the goaltender to the ball in the Jaguars first round win, 2-1, over the Dunsford Dinos. *Photo submitted by Randy Moratz.*

Five HHSS cross country runners qualify for OFSAA

The COSSA Cross Country Championships were held Wednesday, Oct. 22 at Dunnett Orchards in Brighton, with five Red Hawks qualifying for OFSAA. They include novice girl, Quinn Hamilton, novice boy, Alex Lee, junior girl, Annika Gervais, as well as seniors Violet Humphries and Erika Hoare. The provincial championships are Nov. 1 at Heart Lake Conservation area in Brampton. (*Submitted*).

Left: Alex Lee made OFSAA in the novice boys' category. Centre: Erika Hoare is one of the qualifiers. Right: Junior girl, Annika Gervais, is going to provincials. *Submitted.*



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FOR SALE - Christmas Jams and Jellies, Stocking stuffers, garlic and garlic powder and seed garlic. 1434 Kashagawigamog Lake Road, 2.2k from County Road 21. 705-286-2627 or 705-457-0090. Highland Garlic will now be Open until November 23. To all of our customers, Have a safe and Happy Holiday Season and we will see you next year.

FOR SALE

FOR SALE - 4 All Season Tires Brand New Coopers 205/60R15. Purchased for a KIA Asking $ 650. Please call 705-854-9201

FOR SALE – 2018 Chev Pickup 4 X 4 Colorado. 51,000 KMS, Red, with many extras. Call 705-457-5591 for more information.

FOR SALE - Massey 202 workbull tractor with loader and ice chains. In good running condition. $5500 or best offer. Text 705-935-1105 or email dusty2348@gmail.com

FOR SALE – 2004 Dodge Caravan, Wheel Chair accessible, with ramp. Will certify, $7,000. & 2007 Ford Edge, well serviced, $3,500. Plus 2 sets of tires for each vehicle.

FOR RENT

FOR RENT - Furnished, open concept, 2 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath single-family home on the river in downtown Minden. Available November 1 until June 15, 2026. $2150/mth plus utilities. Showings conducted on pre-approved application basis. Contact rentalsminden@gmail.com (Oct 9, 16, 23, 30) Cindy Pristol

FOR RENT

FOR RENT – Looking for quiet mature person, non-smoker, to share house in Haliburton. Close to Post Office, Banks & Grocery Store & Main Street. $1,400. Per month, 2 rooms, Kitchen, Sitting Room & Bathroom. Includes Utilities, Wi-Fi & Vehicle Parking. Please call Gord at 705-457-0878

FOR RENT – Large 1 bedroom apt, heat, hydro, bell internet included. $1,600. Per month/ Parking available. Available immediately. Call 705-854-1737

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WANTED

WANTED – Farm Tractor, 3 pt hitch, with loader. Gas or Diesel. Let me know what you have, all will be considered. E-mail to samuriron@hotmail.com or call 705-286-3823

NOTICE

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS - Sundays - 10:30 am at St. Anthony's, 27 Victoria Street Haliburton. Wednesdays - 7:00 PM at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle St. in Minden - rear door. Thinking about alcohol. Thinking about stopping. We've been there. We can help!

AL ANON- WE CARE, are you troubled by someone's drinking? Meetings: Thursdays 7 p.m., St. Anthony's 27 Victoria Street, Haliburton, and Mondays 7 p.m. at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle, Rear Entrance, Minden. 1-888-4AL-ANON (1-888-425-2666) al-anon.org All are welcome.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Admission is free and the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using. This meeting is for addicts only. New meeting in Haliburton that meets every Thursday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the Link Building. 5152 County Rd 21. For more information and an online version visit www.cloana.org or call 1-888-811-3887

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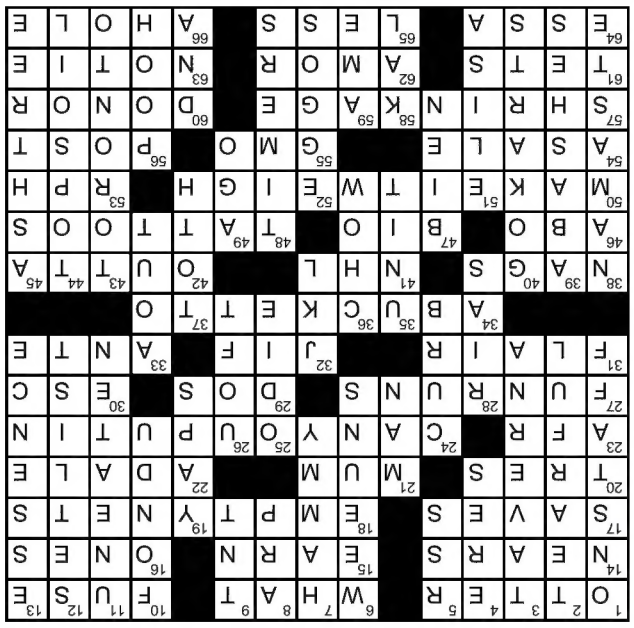

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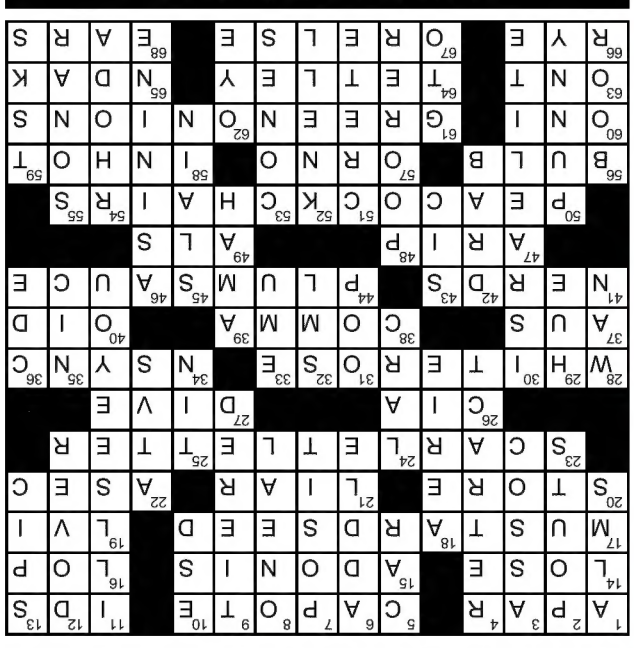

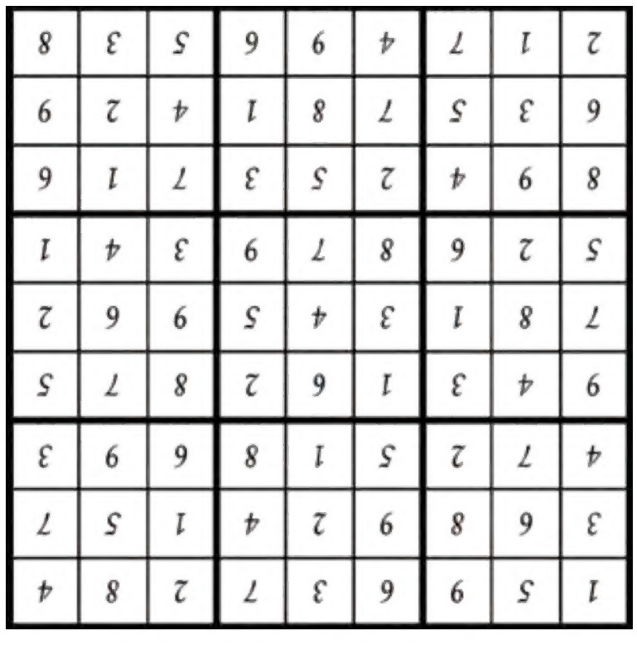

OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Robert "Bob" Long

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Robert "Bob" Long, who left us peacefully, surrounded by his family, on Saturday, October 18, 2025, in his 83rd year. Bob was a beloved father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. Whose kindness and music has left a mark on all who knew him. Bob was survived by his sister Jeannie Thomas (Dave) and his children: Lisa Thibeault (Claude), Susanne Long (Steve), and Steve Long (Kim). He was adored by his Grandchildren, Tom, Loretta, Dale, Danielle, Nicole, Caden, Rylan, and Taylor, and great-grandchildren Madison, Karley, Hailey, Kale, and Cole. Bob's passions were as vast as his generous spirit, and he loved music, fishing, traveling east, and forever joking with his family and friends. He was adored by everyone who knew him and will be missed by many.

Celebration of Life

Please join us in a Celebration of Life in Bob's honor at the **HALIBURTON LEGION**, 719 Mountain St., Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 on Sunday, November 16, 2025, from 11 - 3 pm. Bring your appetite, fond memories, and instruments, and be ready to sing or play a song in his memory. Funeral Arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME**, 13523 Hwy. #118 Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 (705) 457-9209.

In Loving Memory of

Freda Davis (nee Dugan)

It is with deep love and fond remembrance that the family of Freda Vivian Davis (nee Dugan) announce her peaceful passing on October 22, 2025, at the age of 78.

Born on November 20, 1946, in the Haliburton Hospital, Freda was one of four girls born to Carl and Helen Dugan. Freda married Bill Davis (predeceased), with whom she shared 57 years of a blissful marriage. Freda and Bill enjoyed traveling and dancing together, often to old country tunes, and were blessed to raise three children of their own.

Freda was a devoted mother, staying home to raise her children until they were all attending school. Freda loved spending time with her family, whether baking, crocheting, or just going out for walks. When she wasn't playing Euchre or Cribbage, you could find Freda watching game shows. She also found joy in social outings, listening to live music, having tea parties, or playing shuffleboard.

Freda is survived by her children, Ed (Linda), Sherry (Bill), Charlene, and her sisters, Gloria and Nancy. She is also lovingly remembered by her grandchildren, Heather (Cam), Craig (Cori), Edward (Jessica), Jonathan (Ashley), and Carly (Jamie). As well as her great-grandchildren, Hunter, Lily, and Gordy. Freda was predeceased by her sister Carolen Clark.

Visitation & Graveside Service

Friends and family are invited to call at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME**, 13523 Hwy. #118 Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 (705) 457-9209 on Thursday, October 30, 2025, from 11 - 12:30 p.m. A Graveside Service will follow at Evergreen Cemetery in Haliburton. As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Haliburton 4C's Foodbank or Autism Ontario would be appreciated by the family.

WANTED

WANTED ANTIQUES

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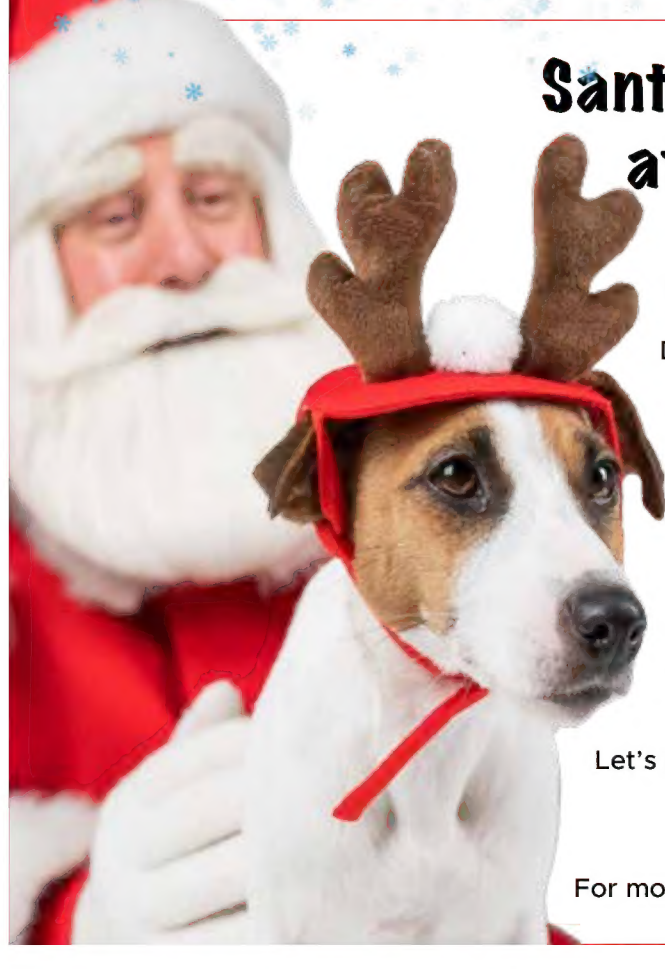
EVENT



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Highlander puzzles

Want a Clue?

by Barbara Olson
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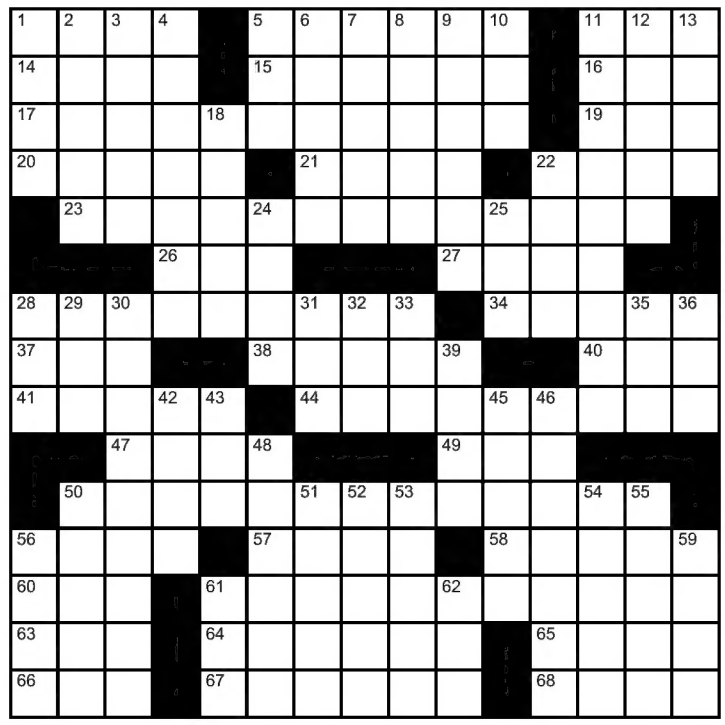

Across

1 On ___ with (equal to)
5 "In Cold Blood" author
11 Checks a DOB, maybe
14 Win the booby prize
15 Hunk of Greek mythology?
16 Sever
17 Dijon base
19 Caesarian 56
20 It may be brick-and-mortar
21 Finger-crosser, maybe
22 "Wait ___!" ("Hold on!")
23 Hester Prynne's "A", in a Hawthorne book
26 U.S. spy org.
27 Far from a five-star hotel
28 House of York's symbolic flower
34 "Bye Bye Bye" boy band
37 Vienna's land: Abbr.
38 Lowdown apostrophe?
40 Suffix with ster- or aster-
41 Stereotypical techies
44 Chicken nugget dip
47 "What ___!" ("I've been had!")
49 Montreal CFLers, to fans
50 Round-backed wicker seats
56 Light fixture insert
57 "Yes ___?" (choice words)
58 ___ water (facing a tongue-lashing)
60 Pasta suffix
61 Scallions, e.g.
63 Most populous prov.
64 Red Rose rival
65 State south of Sask. and Man.
66 Canadian Club product
67 Words in a vague threat
68 Corn units

Down

1 Aid for the poor
2 Shows some lip?
3 Grp. or org.
4 Take back, as a statement
5 The Game of Life token
6 Throw into confusion
7 Offer up for discussion
8 Lengthy Laker, once
9 Like a wedding dress or cake
10 Apoc. book
11 Suer's words before "in court"
12 "White cliffs" site, of song
13 Span's companion
18 Home for a high flyer
22 Rides for rugged roads
24 ___ de Triomphe
25 Its symbol is Sn
28 Sickly-looking
29 Colour wheel selection
30 Member of a Biblical people
31 Alley ___ of comics
32 T-shirt sizes: Abbr.
33 Feathered meat source Down Under
35 Tobacco stat.
36 B-F link
39 Beijing baby sitter
42 Esthetically ho-hum
43 Publisher's "not my bad!"
45 Offed, knight-style
46 Sillier than silly
48 In a lower tax bracket, say
50 Like what some say is the lowest form of humour
51 Early Greek island hub
52 Ring out solemnly
53 Ice cream stands?
54 Valerie Harper sitcom
55 Underwater search aid
56 Vulgar sort
59 Tut-tutter's sounds
61 Pontiac's first musclecar
62 "___ of little faith...": Matthew 8:26

Win tickets to a Huskies game. Simply cut out this ad and include your contact details and drop it off at The Highlander during office hours to be entered into a draw. We will contact the winner Friday afternoon.

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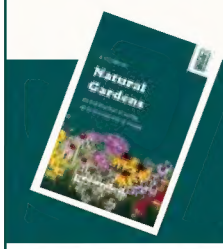

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	6		9					7
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	4		1				7	
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8					3			
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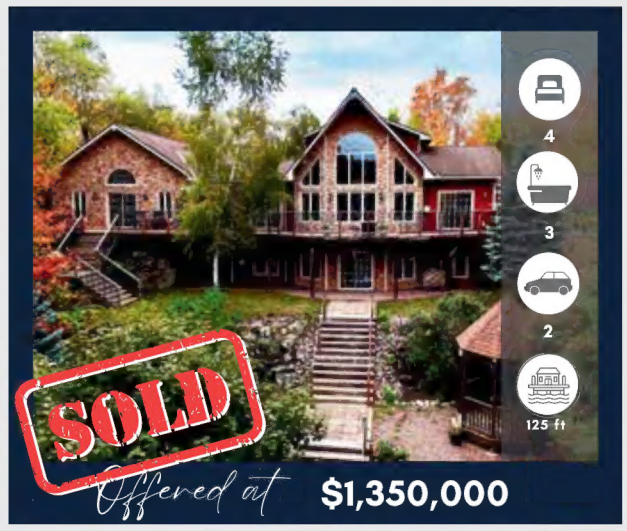
ELEVATING
HALIBURTON
REAL ESTATE

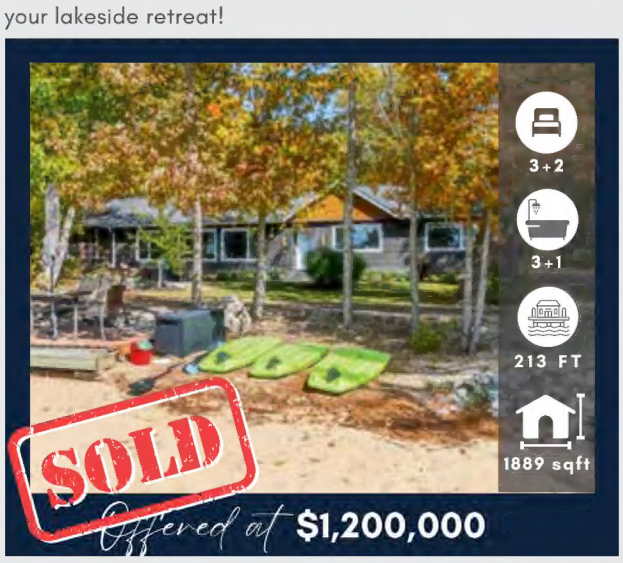
1070 GLAMORGAN RD, GOODERHAM LAKE

Year-round comfort meets cottage charm at 1070 Glamorgan Road on beautiful Gooderham Lake! This bright 3-bed, 2-bath home features a spacious kitchen, flexible main floor living, and stunning lake views from the living and dining areas. Enjoy easy access to snowmobile/ATV trails, crown land, and local amenities. Just 20 minutes to Haliburton and 2 hours from the GTA, this property is perfect for relaxing getaways or full-time living. Don't miss your lakeside retreat!



1754 HORSESHOE LAKE RD, MINDEN LAKE

Experience lakeside living at its best! This stunning Minden Lake property features an indoor saltwater pool for year-round enjoyment, breathtaking views, 4 spacious bedrooms, & 3 full baths.



1053 MAEBAR ROAD, TWELVE MILE LAKE

213' sandy shoreline, west-facing sunsets, renovated 3-bed home plus 2-bed guest cottage, stunning Haliburton room, and outstanding main floor water views. Boat to restaurants—year-round access and comfort!

1166 CARROLL ROAD, HALIBURTON

Chalet-style retreat on 30 private acres! Open concept, stone fireplace, chef's kitchen, loft, walkout rec room, drive-through garage, and trails. Minutes to Haliburton. Move-in ready—explore 1166 Carroll Road!

1291 SHANAHAN TRAIL, MINDEN

Turnkey cottage on Horseshoe Lake! Sandy beach, deep water off the dock, boathouse for lakeside entertaining, guest bunkie, and great lake views. Minutes to Minden. Move-in ready!

Our Signature Touch To Get Your Top Dollar

Thinking about selling? Make your home unforgettable with the Maxwell Signature Touch. Our staging experts highlight your home's best features, helping buyers instantly picture themselves living there. Want your home or cottage to stand out? Contact the Maxwell Signature Realty Team—let's make it shine.

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